

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /076 W
-----115501 291647Z /43/13

R 271632Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5601
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06696

(C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - PARA TWO LINE 10 PHRASE
PREVIOUSLY OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: AO, UK
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FCO ON ANGOLA

1. ANGOLA DESK OFFICER MET APRIL 26 WITH FCO ANGOLA
DESK OFFICER GILLIAN WATTS. IN DISCUSSION OF DIRECTION
MPLA MIGHT TAKE IF NETO WERE NO LONGER ON THE SCENE,
WATTS SAID THAT A POWER STRUGGLE WOULD BE LIKELY
BETWEEN OLDER MULATTO LEADERS AND YOUNGER, MORE RADICAL
BLACKS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MILITARY, AND THAT WHATEVER
GROUP WON OUT MIGHT WELL BE LESS OPEN TO THE WEST THAN
IS NETO. SHE OBSERVED THAT PRIME MINISTER NASCIMENTO
OWES HIS POSITION TO HIS CLOSE TIES TO NETO RATHER THAN
TO ANY SUBSTANTIAL POWER BASE OF HIS OWN, AND THAT HE
MIGHT SUCCEED NETO BUT AS ESSENTIALLY A FIGUREHEAD,
WHILE THE REAL POWER STRUGGLE TAKES PLACE UNDERNEATH
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HIM. SHE QUALIFIED HER OBSERVATIONS WITH THE COMMENT
THAT THE PAUCITY OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION MAKES ANALYSIS
OF MPLA FACTIONS LITTLE MORE THAN GUESSWORK.

2. WATTS SAID THAT BRITISH EMBASSY IN LUANDA CONSISTS
OF CHARGE JOHN FLYNN, FLYNN'S WIFE WHO IS HIS SECRETARY,
AND AN ADMIN OFFICER. FLYNN'S FEW CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN

MINISTER JORGE HAVE BEEN CORDIAL, BUT HE HAS CONSIDER-
ABLE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING TO SEE JORGE OR ANYONE IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY. DIPLOMATS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO
CONTACT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DIRECTLY, BUT MUST GO
THROUGH THE PROTOCOL OFFICE. MOREOVER, ON ONE MATTER
OF IMPORTANCE TO HMG -- ARRANGING VISITS BY FLYNN TO
IMPRISONED BRITISH MERCENARIES -- JORGE HAS ADMITTED HE
HAS BEEN UNABLE TO BE OF MUCH ASSISTANCE. SUCH VISITS
MUST BE APPROVED BY DISA (SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE), WHOSE LEADERSHIP -- DIRECTOR RODRIGUES JOAO
LOPES AKA LUDY AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO
SANTOS AKA ONAMBWE -- IS MUCH MORE HARD-LINE THAN JORGE.
WATTS SAID THAT HMG IS CONSIDERING APPOINTING AN
AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA BUT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO
DO SO NOW, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE FRENCH HAVE NOT
YET BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT FROM ANGOLANS FOR
PROPOSED FRENCH AMBASSADOR.

3. FLYNN HAS REPORTED THAT RESENTMENT AGAINST CUBANS IS
INCREASING AMONG ANGOLAN BLACKS, ONE REASON BEING THAT
CUBANS SEEM TO GET FIRST CRACK AT FOOD AND OTHER
IMPORTED GOODS AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE, AND THUS ARE
LIVING CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN THE ANGOLANS.

4. WATTS STATED THAT ANGOLA IS SHOWING INCREASED
INTEREST IN COMMERCIAL TIES WITH UK. ANGOLAN REPRESENTATIVE
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TATIVES HAVE BEEN TO LONDON TO BUY FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
EQUIPMENT. A BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANY, AFFILIATED WITH
LLOYD'S, HAS UNDERTAKEN A PROGRAM (WATTS BELIEVES IT IS
IN LIFE INSURANCE) WITH ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT, AND MAY BE
PLANNING TO SET UP AN AVIATION INSURANCE PROGRAM THERE.
A GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH BANKS IS PLANNING
TO VISIT ANGOLA FOR AN "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" AND TO
ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF INVESTING THERE.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON06696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-1175, D780181-0466
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780410/aaaaaibs.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ca44b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2815832
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH FCO ON ANGOLA
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, AO, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca44b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014